

Spark Gap

Volume 26, Issue 8, August 2009 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years*

From the President



TOWER UPDATE

Many thanks to everyone who turned out for our little antenna party on Saturday August 1st at the Franklin Indiana location. We could not have done it without you. Steve Carmean, Bob Jones and Dave Daily did a great job of

assembling three antennas. We had just enough coax budgeted to make two long runs down the tower. Jack Parker donated 100-feet of 9913 for the third run.

We now have a dual band antenna at 120 feet on the southwest tower leg. The 220 MHz antenna is at 100 feet on the northeast leg and the 2-meter base antenna is located in the previous spot at 75 feet. Running low power from the dual band antenna we can operate simplex across Johnson County. We talked simplex on five watts, with stations in Greenwood, Plainfield and Cloverdale. Yes, Cloverdale. Our thanks to Tug Sutton and Grant Black for paving the way into dispatch. Unfortunately our tower work took until just after noon and we didn't want to interfere with a CERT Class being conducted in the training room.

We still have at least one coax to run from the tower to the EOC radio room. That is on our list of things to do this month. All this would not have taken place without Don and Bill, friends of James Yeater KC9ODS. They were very professional and made quick work out of a big project. If James can provide their full names and addresses we'd like to send them a few pictures and a note of thanks.

Thanks to Steve and Bob for taking pictures. Don Johnson the tower climber, used

my camera to take some spectacular shots of the antennas from the antenna point of view. We'll post some on the web page and in the upcoming newsletter.

CLUB PICNIC

The club picnic will be held on Sept at noon and everyone is to bring a covered dish. The club will provide the usual meat serving and soft drinks. At this time we Will Not be at Brenda's church. She is out of town that week. We are looking at renting a shelter at Independence Park. What we don't have nailed down is a park reservation or who will bring the grill and cook.

We will ask for a cooking volunteer at the meeting next week. If none come forward we will probably have my wife cook up pulled pork and have that on buns. We've done the pulled pork in a crock-pot at several of our clubhouse events and it is well received. Of course, I'd rather have hamburgers and hotdogs.

CLUB NEWS

Here are a couple of short items. Chris Frederick KG6ZIJ upgraded to Extra Class last month while Bryan Kilgore KC9OAG got his General Class license. Richard Burton KC9QGD is a new club member and Technician Class operator.

HILLTOP CONTEST

Club members Chris Frederick KG6ZIJ and Steve Carmean K9DY are planning on participating in the annual Hill Top contest Saturday September 19th. The four-hour event is sponsored by the Indianapolis Radio Club. Each participant has to register his hilltop online and then make as many contacts as possible using simplex VHF, UHF and HF frequencies. All this while on auxiliary power. Contact Steve or Chris if you would like to participate from their "Hilltop" location.

73, Jack w8ish

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Public Service Opportunity

GREENWOOD MARCHING BAND INVITATIONAL; Saturday, September 26, 2009; 1:30 PM TO 11:00 PM

Please mark your calendars for the Greenwood Marching Band Invitational to be held at the Greenwood High School Football Field. This event has been held annually for the past thirty years and MARC has been assisting them with public safety for twelve years.

This event needs all available hams that can help due to the large numbers of spectators and the bands that come to perform. There are usually large amounts of people that come to see the bands and there are many places around the football field where they park their cars. The band organization at Greenwood High School is always appreciative of our professionalism and the service our club members provide them. As usual we will have access to food and drinks available to all that help with this event.

If possible it would be good if we could have at least 25 hams help with this event. If you have not helped in the past you are in for a real treat and also provide good exposure of Ham Radio to the public. We will conduct our net on 146.550 MHz (simplex). Talk in will be on the 146.835 MHz repeater (Pl. 151.4) until we switch to the simplex frequency. This event helps us prepare for using simplex frequencies on location if radio communications were needed during an emergency.

What you will need for the event:

1. Your favorite HT and spare battery pack.
2. Safety vest (MARC has a limited quantity) Home Depot, Menards etc.
3. Flashlight with a wand for directing traffic (these are available online)
4. A chair
5. Water, the band organization does have water but it is good to bring your own.
6. Comfortable shoes make your feet happy.

The safety vest and flashlight with a wand are very important safety items. They are needed for your safety as well as the public will know to come to you if there is a problem. You will use these safety items for other events that use HAMS for public safety.

There will be a sign-up sheet for the event at the next club meeting or contact me by e-mail. If you have a friend that is a HAM please feel free to bring them along also.

73, Bob N9SIU; e-mail n9siu at yahoo.com.

ARRL NEWS

PR-101 Course on CD-ROM

— *Developed by the ARRL Public Relations Committee*

Who speaks for your club? Do they have any training in media work? Could they do better?

The PR-101 course is designed to give hams a quick course in public relations activities. It uses the skills of experts in various aspects of public relations to provide volunteer Public Information Officers with the basic skills and expectations that a PIO needs to know. PR-101 covers everything from the basic news release to Web sites and video work.

The course is conveniently set-up for you to complete it on your own schedule. Upon completion it guides you to the Web for the final exam. Participants who successfully complete the exam will be directed to a special area where they can create, print and save a certificate of completion.

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0133>

Officers

President:
Jack Parker,
W8ISH

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Jacki Frederick,
K16QOG

Treasurer:
Steve Carmean,
K9DY

Repeater Trustee:
Jay Chrisman,
AA9YP

Spark Gap Editors:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

Linda Harshbarger,
KC9GCH

Class Update

I am getting requests for another Technician level amateur radio class. Let's plan on having a class in September beginning the week after Labor Day. If you know of anyone wishing to take a class, please have them contact me at 317-887-2558 or at PIO@midstatehams.org.

Class size is limited to 14 students so registration will close when all 14 spaces are filled. We will again be purchasing textbooks in late August so anyone needing a book that has preregistered will be able to get a textbook from us just prior to the class. So spread the word.

Class location has not been confirmed but we will once again try to obtain the training room located in the White River Township Fire Department located at State Road 135 and Olive Branch Road.

VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. Please check out our website at www.midstatehams.org for directions.

Hamfest/Event Info

The **2nd Annual "Tailgators" Hamfest**, sponsored by the Ripley County Amateur Radio Club will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2009 at the Ripley County 4H Fairgrounds, 524 Beech Street, Osgood, Indiana 47037. Times are 8 AM to 2 PM. Follow the signs off US421 at SR350 at the light in Osgood.. Gate fee is \$3.00. Talk-in on the 441.775 & 147.420 Simplex. For more information contact Delbert Felix at wy9l.thebigdog@gmail.com or call 812-756-2470.

The Owen-Monroe Amateur Radio Hamfest, co-sponsored by the Owen County Amateur Radio Association and the Bloomington Amateur Radio Club will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2009 at the Owen County Fairgrounds, Spencer, Indiana. Times are from 7 AM to 2PM. V.E. testing is scheduled for 1:00 PM. Talk-in is on the KB9MZZ repeater at 146.985 MHz (136.5 PL). For more information contact Katie Smith at k9inu@arrl.net.

Election Information

Our annual elections will be held at the annual picnic on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Location to be announced. Up for election will be the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Repeater Trustee. Some nominations have already been made while open nominations will be held at the club meeting on Saturday, August 15, 2009. Nominating committee is comprised of Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH and Chris Fredrick, KG6ZIG. Nominations will be closed at the end of the August 15 meeting. For more information contact Linda at kc9gch@arrl.net.

**WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone**

**Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM ET**

***Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!***

*The Mid-State
Amateur Radio Club
sponsors a weekly
traffic and social net
on our repeater. The
net begins at 7:00
p.m. local time, and
features local news,
announcements, and
NTS traffic, as well as
rebroadcasts of
Amateur Radio
Newsline. This is a
great chance to
meet other local
amateur radio
operators and test
your operating
skills.*

K9DY and W8ISH at
Columbus. Photo by
Mrs. K9DY.

2009 Schedule of Events

AUGUST 2009

- 15 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 22 2nd Annual "Tailgators" Hamfest sponsored by the Ripley County Amateur Radio Club; 8 AM to 2 PM; Ripley County 4H Fairgrounds, 524 Beech Street, Osgood, IN 47037; Talk-in 441.75 and 147.420 Simplex; For more information contact Delbert Felix at wy9l.thebigdog@gmail.com or call 812-756-2470**
- 22 Owen-Monroe Amateur Radio Hamfest co-sponsored by the Owen County Amateur Radio Association and the Bloomington Amateur Radio Club**
Owen County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IN; 7 AM to 2 PM; Talk-in on KB9MZZ repeater 146.985 (136.5 PL); For more information contact Katie Smith, K9INU at k9inu@arrl.net

SEPTEMBER 2009

- 12 Greater Louisville Hamfest 2009, Paroquet Springs Conference Centre, Shepherdsville, KY; 8 AM - 2 PM; For more info go to website LouisvilleHamfest.com**
- 19 MARC Meeting - 11:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
VEC Testing from 8:00 AM to 11 AM. Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. Meeting will be the annual picnic and election of officers. Location for picnic to be announced.
- 22 Fall begins**
- 26 Greenfield Indiana Tailgating Hamfest; Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds**
8 AM - 1:00PM; Talk-in on 145.330
- 26 Greenwood Marching Band Invitational; Greenwood High School, Greenwood, IN**
1:30 PM to 11:00 PM; To volunteer contact Bob LaGrange at N9SIU@yahoo.com
- 25-27 2009 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference**
For more info go to website www.tapr.org/dcc or call Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) at 972-671-8277

OCTOBER 2009

- 4 48th Annual Hoosier Hills Hamfest; Lawrence Co. 4H Fairgrounds, Bedford, IN**
Talk-in 146.730 (-) (107.2 PL); for more information go to website www.hoosierhillshamfest.org
- 10 Lake County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest**
- 10 IRCC Meeting Starke County Library 2-4 PM**
- 17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 17 Indianapolis Marathon**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB to volunteer or for more details. www.indyhams.org
- 31 Halloween (Goblin Patrol)**

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Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.